

through the purchase from willing sellers of 15 acres adjacent to the existing monument.

Mr. Speaker, Booker T. Washington, perhaps the most notable African American educator of his day and founder of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, was born into slavery in 1856 on a 200-acre tobacco farm in southwestern Virginia. Today, the Booker T. Washington National Monument preserves and protects the birthplace and childhood home of Mr. Washington and interprets his life experiences and his significance in American history.

The monument is one-half mile from the rapidly growing commercial crossroads of Westlake Corner and commercial and residential development is visible from the park. Much of the farmland around the park is for sale, including the 15-acre proposed piece of property. If authorized and acquired, the 15-acre parcel of land would be added to the park's agricultural permit program in order to preserve the agricultural setting of the park.

The Park Service estimates the purchase and acquisition cost of the 15-acre parcel will be approximately \$400,000. The Park Service's Northeast Region has determined this project as its top land acquisition funding priority for fiscal year 2003.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is not controversial. It is supported by the majority and minority of the Committee on Resources, the administration and the surrounding communities in southwestern Virginia.

I urge an "aye" vote on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I would first like to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), his closing remarks on H.R. 1384, establishing the Navajo Long Walk National Historic Trail.

On this bill, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1456, which would modify the boundary of the Booker T. Washington National Monument in southwestern Virginia, we are pleased to also be in a position to manage this bill. H.R. 1456 would include approximately 15 acres of adjacent agricultural land to the monument.

□ 1700

The bill authorizes the Secretary to acquire the property from willing sellers, using donated or appropriated funds. It is our understanding that while this property has not been available previously, it is currently on the market. Seven of the 15 acres to be added were part of the original plantation on which Booker T. Washington was born, but addition of the entire parcel will protect the area from encroaching commercial development. This boundary adjustment was rec-

ommended by the most recent general management plan for the monument.

Mr. Speaker, Booker T. Washington is a significant figure in American history. As you have heard, born into slavery in 1856, he went on to found the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1881 and is recognized as the leading African American educator of his time. He has left a legacy that continues to enrich the African American community and this Nation.

I am proud as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and ranking member of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands of the Committee on Resources to support the expansion of this national monument as a means to further protect Booker T. Washington's valuable legacy.

I want to thank and commend my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE), for his work on this bill, and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman RADANOVICH) and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), for their support, and the support of the Committee on Resources for this legislation.

H.R. 1456 would expand the boundary of the Booker T. Washington National Monument located in Franklin County, Virginia. I am a native and lifelong resident of Franklin County, so I have some personal knowledge and familiarity with the monument and the surrounding area. I can attest to the rapid growth that the area has experienced over the last few years. The proximity of the monument to Smith Mountain Lake poses a real threat to the rural character and pastoral nature of the Booker T. Washington National Monument.

A 15-acre parcel of land adjacent to the monument has been put up for sale by the owner. The legislation would facilitate the purchase of this property and expand the monument boundary. It is important to note that 7 of the 15 acres were part of the original Burrough farm. With the encroaching development, I hope that we can act now to maintain the rural character of the Booker T. Washington National Monument before the opportunity is lost.

If one drives down Route 122 in Franklin County where this monument is located, you can see the rapid growth and expansion on all sides of it. This 15 acres is in a high area which would preserve a good vista for the monument as it exists today. If we do not act right away, I am afraid the opportunity will be lost.

The 224-acre park is comprised of rolling hills, woodlands, fields, the Burrough homeplace, and two slave cabin sites. The park portrays Washington's rural life on a small tobacco farm and what it was like, and the rural character is critical to the park's interpretation of the life on such farms during the period just prior to the Civil War.

I hope that we can maintain the rural character of the Booker T. Washington National Monument. I believe that this is a worthwhile endeavor for the National Park Service, it is worthwhile for the memory of Booker T. Washington, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHUGH). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1456.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2385, H.R. 1161, H.R. 1384 and H.R. 1456, the four bills just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2646, FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-226) on the resolution (H. Res. 248) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2646) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5:30 p.m.